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Learning and Teaching Fest: Sustaining our Development in Digital Learning, Teaching and Student Support - 7th July 2021

The 2021 Annual Teaching and Learning Fest will focus on sharing our learning from, what will then be, sixteen months of blended/online learning and student support. As such, the central conference theme is on feeding forward, sustaining and learning from the transition from classroom to 'virtualroom'.

It is important we capture and share not only what worked well, but also what we have learned and reflected on from aspects that didn't go as we had hoped. The aim of the conference, therefore, is to inform and support the future of our practice.

The conference will be held online and is open to all staff who are student facing and as always we encourage Professional Service and UCSU colleagues to present and take part. We also encourage colleagues to collaborate with students for the content and delivery of their paper where appropriate.

Fest 2021 has the following strands which are to be considered through the lens of our transition to the blended/online HE environment:

1. Learning and Teaching (for example: accessibility, digital tools, simulations, interaction, creating a sense of community, planning, apprenticeships, working with external stakeholders, placements, specialist equipment)
2. Assessment (for example: accessibility, digital tools, simulations, protocols, criteria, formats, impact of changes, end point assessments, placements, quality)
3. Supporting student well-being through LTA (for example: creating a community, peer support, overcoming digital poverty, SpLD, apprentices, placement, personal tutoring)
4. Supporting staff well-being in the home-office context (for example: routines, staff development, peer support, top tips, back and eye solutions)
5. Practitioner research (this could be completed projects, works in progress, potential projects you want to sound out with an audience, ideas for bids etc)

Please submit your proposal via the form by Friday 16th April 2021 by 5pm

If you have any questions regarding proposals please email cape@cumbria.ac.uk

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Title:

Strand:

Co-presenter:

Proposal: short description of the session content and the learning you will share. Please be clear about what aspect you feel should be retained when we come out of the COVID LTA environment and how that can be used/applied at UoC (no more than 300 words):

Crafting in a virtual space: words and pictures

Craft has diverse meanings and uses. Here, we are going to use it in two ways: firstly, to refer to crafting stories with words (Hayes, 2020; Hayes, 2021a). We may choose to tell a tale, but it takes skill to ‘... craft something with power, something with emotion, something that lives and breathes within the hearts and minds of audiences ...’ (Hull, 2011). This draws on approaches used in creative nonfiction. Secondly, to refer to things that can be created using simple, everyday objects that can be creatively repurposed. This draws on approaches used in early years’ education.

We can think of these as a form of applied creativity, whereby the crafting process transforms an idea into something tangible – an artefact - that can be shared with others (after Gauntlett, 2011). Crafting in this way can be an effective way of promoting participation and social interaction in a tacit way that bridges any communication challenges (Larmour *et al.*, 2021) by shifting the focus away from more direct, potentially uncomfortable (discomforting) methods.

The focus of the session is not on craft that is created alone, it is on crafting together, for example in a teaching session. We will put this into practice as we share experiences of crafting within research methods modules on BA Working with Children and Families – the challenges and joys of sharing pictures and stories in virtual spaces when we would much rather be together in one space.

What I am taking forward from my experiences of teaching, learning and assessment during the Covid-19 pandemic, is that we need to retain space for ad hoc and informal creative methods that enable us to respond in a less pre-planned, more relaxed and playful way. This is something that can be encouraged across other subjects, so that it does not matter how skilled or creative we perceive ourselves to be, we can all join in without fearing critique (Hayes, 2021b).

References

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- Hayes, T.A. (2021a). ‘Story crafting methods: exploring magic and mundane moments and capturing elusive elements’. [Online workshop]. University of Cumbria. 10 February.
- Hayes, T.A. (2021b). ‘The practicalities of researching creatively’, in von Benzon, N.; Holton, M.; Wilkinson, C. and Wilkinson, S. (Eds.) *Creative Methods for Human Geographers*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Hull, J. (2011). *To tell a tale, to craft a story*. Available at: <https://narrativefirst.com/articles/to-tell-a-tale-to-craft-a-story/> (Accessed: 28/08/2020)
- Larmour, C.; Larmour, L. and Hayes, T. (2021, in process). ‘Craft Elicitation: Connecting and finding meaning through craft’, *BERA Blog*. Date and online link tbc.